

# Carsington Bird Club



## JUNE 2014 BIRD NOTES

### **June Highlights: Little Egret, Scaup, Red Kite and Osprey.**

The big species count of 99 is a new June record, beating the previous best of 96 in 2004. Generally, breeding is making up for last year's loss, with the warm weather promoting a glut of insects and big brood sizes are evident. Water bird broods noted so far this year are: Great Crested Grebe with 5 broods (1 last year), Mute Swan 1 brood of 7 (last year 1 brood of 4), Barnacle Geese 2 broods of 4+2 (2 broods of 1), Mallard 19 broods (15), Tufted Duck 6 broods (1) and Coot 5 broods (4). Notable counts, excluding obvious young, were from the WeBS count on 16<sup>th</sup> except where stated: 2 Little Grebe, 34 Great Crested Grebe, 22 Cormorant on 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Little Egret on 29<sup>th</sup>, 11 Heron from 18<sup>th</sup>, 23 Mute Swan on 30<sup>th</sup>, 402 Canada Geese on 30<sup>th</sup>, a female Mandarin on 23<sup>rd</sup>, a drake Wigeon on 29<sup>th</sup>, 5 drake Teal on 9<sup>th</sup>, 103 Mallard, 3 Shoveler on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2 drake Pochard on 29<sup>th</sup>, 83 Tufted Duck, a moulting drake Scaup on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7 drake Common Scoter on 26<sup>th</sup>, and 103 Coot. A Heron at Sheepwash with a yellow ring marked '61' has been traced to a this year's nestling from near York, proving some very early movement. Also, providing an identification challenge, has been a pair of Australian Wood Duck (presumed escapees) usually found around the Wildlife Centre since 21<sup>st</sup>.

Raptors included a Red Kite on 6<sup>th</sup>, an Osprey from Sheepwash on 2<sup>nd</sup>, another Osprey on 21<sup>st</sup> and a Hobby was seen hunting on 18<sup>th</sup>. Sadly, a dead Buzzard nestling was found under the nest on 13<sup>th</sup>, presumed to have fallen out, and a dead Kestrel was found on the dam on 20<sup>th</sup>.

Notable waders and their maximum counts this month were 12 Oystercatcher including 4 big young on 9<sup>th</sup>, 4 Little Ringed Plover on 29<sup>th</sup>, a Ringed Plover on 4<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 35 Lapwing on 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Snipe on 30<sup>th</sup>, 13 Black-tailed Godwit on 28<sup>th</sup>, 4 Curlew on 4<sup>th</sup>, 9 Redshank including 2 juveniles on 6<sup>th</sup>, a Greenshank on 8<sup>th</sup>, a Green Sandpiper on 27<sup>th</sup> and a Common Sandpiper on 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

Black-headed Gull pairs showed 22 young at the Wildlife Centre and 25 young on Millfields Island on 30<sup>th</sup>. There were 7 immature Common Gull on 20<sup>th</sup>, 104 mixed age Lesser Black-backed Gull on 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Herring Gull on 9<sup>th</sup> and Brutus, the Yellow-legged Gull, returned on 20<sup>th</sup> and was joined by another from 25<sup>th</sup>. A Sandwich Tern was at the Wildlife Centre briefly on 15<sup>th</sup> before going on to Ogston Reservoir and there were 2 Common Tern on 29<sup>th</sup> and an Arctic Tern on 20<sup>th</sup>.

Two Stock Dove flew over the Wildlife Centre on 24<sup>th</sup> and a young Tawny Owl was seen in a pathside tree on 27<sup>th</sup>. A pair of Swift looked to be feeding nestlings under the Visitor Centre eaves from 24<sup>th</sup> and regular sightings of 2 Kingfisher, occasionally carrying fish, suggested probable breeding. A family of Swallow were in and out of the overflow grill at Millfields on 25<sup>th</sup> and other adults looked to be attending nestlings under the nearby draw-off control tower. A pair of Grey Wagtail was around Paul Stanley Hide on 24<sup>th</sup> and 5 juvenile Pied Wagtail were on Stones Island on 9<sup>th</sup>. Tit families noted included a Long-tailed and a Willow in Wildlife Centre Creek on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Coal on 20<sup>th</sup>, 4 Great on 2<sup>nd</sup> and a Nuthatch was feeding young in Warrington Knob on 14<sup>th</sup>. Maximum counts on long walks were: 61 Wren, 26 Robin, 3 Redstart, 35 Blackbird and 9 Song Thrush on 6<sup>th</sup>, 6 Reed Warbler singing on 14<sup>th</sup>, 8 Whitethroat on 6<sup>th</sup>, 12 Garden Warbler on 16<sup>th</sup>, 33 Blackcap, 39 Chiffchaff and 39 Willow Warbler on 6<sup>th</sup>, a flock of 18 Long-tailed Tit on 27<sup>th</sup>, 32 Rook in a field above Wildlife Centre Creek on 14<sup>th</sup>, 19 Chaffinch on 6<sup>th</sup>, a Siskin and 3 Linnet on 16<sup>th</sup> and 8 Reed Bunting on 18<sup>th</sup>.

99 Species this June compared with 87 in 2013, 88 in 2012, 95 in 2011, 88 in 2010 and 93 in 2009.

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